

November 20, 2020

Dear UCEF Supporter:

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UCEF
c/o The School District
of University City
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University City High School AP English teacher Christina Sneed wanted to help her students understand how language and rhetoric are used to create culture, society, and a narrative of American history. Last spring, she assigned her students to examine The 1619 Project, an initiative of The New York Times Magazine that reexamines slavery and its impact on American life up to the present day. Ms. Sneed encouraged her students to think critically about difficult and complex questions and issues, such as institutional racism, and asked them each to report what they learned in a format of their choosing.

Among other pieces, these inspiring 17-year-olds created:

- A documentary on hairstyles and colorism.
- A podcast comparing Black student experiences in Clayton and U. City High Schools.
- A documentary examining the social undertones of why University City parents choose to send their children to private schools over their local, public school system.

The results were extraordinary, creative, analytical and thought-provoking, and demonstrate why U. City students, teachers and administrators lead the region in the critical work of examining and building equity here in St. Louis.

(For more information on this project or to watch the documentary, visit

www.ucityschools.org/1619.)

Indeed, the coursework resonated so profoundly, that four of the students went on to help produce an Alexa learning skill on the Black Lives Matter movement that has the potential to reach millions of people around the world. (See related story at www.ucityschools.org/KMOV-Alexa-2020)

The University City Education Foundation supported this work by funding the purchase of a movie screen and projector that allowed the students to present their work to the community in an outside, socially distanced event.



continued

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These are the types of projects that UCEF funds – innovative, teacher and student-led work that enables U. City students to grow and flourish as responsible citizens to spark positive change in the world. Since UCEF began in 1997, the Foundation has provided more than \$260,000 in grants and project support.

UCEF's wide-ranging support of our public schools is made possible through the charitable donations it receives from the community. For example:

- Last summer, UCEF raised more than \$65,000 to support summer meals for U. City families during the pandemic. This effort supported the distribution of more than a half-million meals to students and their families during a critical time.
- Science teachers were able to purchase special swivel cameras that allow lab experiments to be filmed and broadcast as part of student online learning.
- Support was given to help high school seniors earn a dual associate's degree from community college along with a high school diploma.

We write to you today to ask you to support U. City Schools and its emerging leadership by making a donation to the University City Education Foundation. Your donation will go directly to supporting U. City students, families and community through its vision of Learning Reimagined which fosters innovation, academic excellence and creativity.

Please make a tax-deductible donation to UCEF before year-end. You can send a check to UCEF, Attention: Debbie Chase, 8136 Groby Road, U. City, MO 63130, or visit our website at www.ucityeducationfoundation.org to make an online donation through our PayPal account. For more information, contact Debbie Chase at dchase@ucityschools.org or 314-295-4320.

Thank you for supporting the U. City schools and our community!

Sincerely,



Linda Jones
President

University City Education Foundation



Sharonica Hardin-Barley, Ph.D., PHR
Superintendent

The School District of University City

